

GATUN DAM IS SAFE AND CANAL BOOMING

Goethals and Associates Can Build Lock or Sea-Level Type.

CHIEF'S OPTIMISM PERVADES THE ZONE

President Obaldia Wants No Locks, Because It Will Cost More; Take Longer.

By JAMES HAY, JR.
(By Panama Railway Mail Boat.)
PANAMA CITY, Panama, Feb. 2.—It required the visit of President-elect Taft and his consulting engineers to the canal zone to demonstrate with what remarkable ease the big ditch can be dug.

It would not be at all surprising if some person should at any moment throw a cup of black coffee into his system, and, under the inspiration of the beverage, run out and complete the canal overnight. It is the simplest proposition in the world. Even a child could do it.

It takes time? Yes; but a wave of the cigarette and a surge of the shoulders removes every obstacle. Canal building has come to be a science, an old art, in this part of the world.

The sea level is as easy as the lock type, the only difference being that the sea level is the more expensive of the two.

This confidence in the ultimate completion of the canal is not confined to the native Panamanians. The Americans are themselves as convinced of the final success of the undertaking as are the natives. Colonel Goethals is on record as saying:

"If they want a lock canal, I will build it. If they want a sea-level canal I will build that."

Optimism Is Echoed.
His associates on the Panama Canal Commission echo his optimism. They clothe themselves in white suits and Panama hats, and take a white outlook on current events. Every problem has been solved, or will be solved in due time. There is absolutely no doubt on the part of any one on the zone or near it that the canal is as good as successfully completed.

The Panamanians are a people with dark complexions and rapacious instincts. They are good linguists, and, as soon as they learn the English language, they use it as a lever to raise prices on articles to double their former value. They are richer now than they ever have been, and they know it. The little one-horse carriages they use in place of street cars have multiplied until they find difficulty in passing each other in the narrow streets. Naturally, the Panamanians want a sea-level canal, because that type would take more than twice as long to build as the lock type. They want the money to continue in its present glittering and lavish streams.

Wants Sea-Level Canal.
President Obaldia, of the Republic of Panama, is frank in his statement that he would like to see a sea-level canal undertaken, because of the riches it would bring to his famous but somewhat diminutive country.

The Americans, on the other hand, do not care at all. They say they can build any canal at all, and, as Congress has ordered a lock type they will go through with it. Every employee of the Isthmian Canal Commission sits on his veranda every night and dreams large and copious dreams of the white sails of the world's commerce gliding past his door in the tropical moonlight.

If it is pointed out that the foundations of the Gatun dam are unsafe because they are on a porous rock, the officials point out in return that the porous rock can be covered with clay, which will prevent the water flowing through.

The Gatun dam has been made the storm center of interest and speculation and knowledge. It has been studied in front, behind, and on all sides. Every person down here old enough to speak English knows that the Gatun dam is safe, so safe that it could bear the weight of every ship, granite monument, and skyscraper in the world.

Taft Has Explored It.
The President-elect has explored it. The engineers have gone down under it, and the population of the zone has studied it closely from the top of a neighboring hill. There is, therefore, nothing more to know about it. It is safe.

When the remark is made that Bunau-Varilla has called it one of history's greatest ruins, the answer is a laugh that smacks rather of ridicule than merit. Bunau-Varilla's popularity here does not correspond to the engineering knowledge which he says he has.

In line with the general enthusiasm over the prospect of success, everybody works. On the canal zone, each man is on the job. This may be helped along by

BILL WILL ABOLISH CANAL COMMISSION

Measure Reported by Committee and Under Consideration in the House Today Gives President Widest Latitude and Entire Control.

To do away entirely with the Isthmian Canal Commission, to grant the fullest latitude to the President and to clothe him with entire control of the excavation and completion of the Panama canal is the general purpose of the bill reported by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and today considered, under special order, in the House.

"It has been found impossible," the committee report reads, "to properly proceed with the work of construction under the control of a commission meeting in Washington. With the exception of doing away with the commission, the bill sanctions in its entirety the present form of civil government on the zone—the form of which has already been created by the President under the canal act of 1904. By limitation the provisions of this act expired with the Fifty-eighth Congress. Since that time the President had undertaken to continue the governmental system on his own authority."

The fact that Panama is a long way from the extreme southern point of Florida, and that it is a long way from the native Panamanians, is a means of transportation from here to that spot. But the work is humming, and the spirit in charge of it, Colonel Goethals, is right on his job every minute. He is not a peddler of dialogue, nor does he pride himself on his ability as a conversationalist during working hours, but he gets there all the same.

Others Follow Goethals.
The other members of the commission do as Goethals does. They work, and they give him the closest kind of cooperation. It is said on all sides that, since Goethals took charge of the building of the canal, the wonderment and enthusiasm of all concerned have increased. He is quick in decision and determined in carrying out his plans.

And in passing, it might be remarked that the job of building a canal fifty miles long through a mountainous country is not especially easy except to certain engineers who reside in Europe and construct big ditches in the extremely level ground of their imaginations.

The confidence of everybody is the best critique possible of the way the work is going. It really leaves room for question or suspicion. When a thing like this people on the zone are confident, it says its own story.

Thus it is that one believes, from the conversation heard, that under the stimulation of black coffee, the canal may be completed overnight, and that the proposition is as simple as child's play.

The original Panama canal bill directed that the President supervise construction of the canal through the Isthmian Canal Commission; the present bill provides that he shall direct the work through "one of the executive departments of the government" to be designated by him, and authorizes the Chief Executive to appoint a director, chief engineer, and the governor of the Canal Zone.

Provision is also made for a judicial system wherein appeals may be taken from decisions in the Canal Zone to the proper courts in the United States. There are now three judges of a supreme court of the Canal Zone. There is but little litigation in the zone. With the appeals disposed of as in the bill, there would be no necessity for these three judges.

Damage has already sanctioned the name, "Panama canal," to the big ditch and "Canal Zone" to our strip across the Isthmus. For the first time, however, official action is contemplated in the present bill to fix this nomenclature.

SAYS LOCK CANAL IS GRAVE MISTAKE

Kittredge Makes Sensational Report in Senate of Growing Costs.

(Continued from First Page.)

for the Government to the formal protest of the government of Panama against the utterances of Representative Rainey of Illinois. This protest was filed late yesterday afternoon by Minister Arosemena, the minister from Panama at the request of his government.

Exception was taken to the criticism of President Obaldia and the government of Panama in general as made by Representative Rainey on the floor of the House in a recent speech relating to the alleged Panama Canal scandal.

PANAMA PROTEST HARD TO ANSWER

An unusual situation has been presented to the State Department as a result of the protest received from Minister Arosemena, on the part of the Panama government, against the allegations with regard to President Obaldia, contained in Congressman Rainey's speech on the floor of the House.

It is probable the protest will go no further and will find a quiet resting place in the archives of the department. President Roosevelt himself should see it to make a reply assuring the Panama minister that Congressmen Rainey's views are not those of the Administration. There is no precedent to indicate that action may be taken by the State Department.

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SUPPORTERS OF COOPER THEORY MULTIPLYING

Belief That Stomach Causes Extensive Illness Grows in New York.

L. T. Cooper's theory that the American stomach has grown weak and is responsible for most sickness is receiving the strongest sort of endorsement from a surprising number of New Yorkers. Among many people who have recently become convinced that Cooper is correct and his medicine all he claims is Mrs. Eleanor Harris, of 23 Rodney street, Brooklyn.

Thursday afternoon Mrs. Harris called at the store where Cooper is meeting the public, and when interviewed said: "I am only too willing to tell what a remarkable experience I have had with Cooper's New Discovery, and what a wonderful medicine I know it to be."

"I have had rheumatism for sixteen years and took so much medicine in trying to get rid of it, that for the past eight years my stomach has been in a fearful condition, as my digestion was almost ruined. For ten years I consulted one physician after another, but my rheumatism got steadily worse. Finally my stomach got in such a state that I had to stop taking medicine altogether."

"When I first heard of Mr. Cooper's medicine and what it was doing in New York I was afraid to try it; but I finally decided to take it, and if it did me no good I would never take any medicine again. I started the treatment six weeks ago. The first effect it had was to give me a better appetite than I have had for ten years. Then my food began to digest and no longer distressed me for hours after eating. At the end of the third week I noticed that I was not suffering as much from rheumatism, and each day the pain and stiffness grew less until I no longer had any rheumatism. For the past week I feel as though I had been made over entirely, as I have no pains nor aches and eat three hearty meals a day, with no indigestion whatever."

"My two nieces and my sister have had stomach trouble. When they saw what the medicine was doing for me they all tried it. It has helped them just as it did me, and they are delighted with the improvement. One of them told me that it was worth more than its weight in gold to her. This sounds almost impossible, but every word of it is true."

Cooper's New Discovery has made a wonderful record in New York and other cities. It is now on sale at leading druggists everywhere. A treatise by L. T. Cooper, describing the cause of most ill health and how to guard against it, sent free upon request. The Cooper Medicine Co., Dayton, Ohio.

CLOSING OUT

Young & McHugh Closing Out Their Piano Business at 708 12th St.

200 Pianos To Be Sold Regardless of Cost.

This is not a trumped-up scheme, but a bona fide closing out of all pianos in stock and those for which we have contracted. We are positively closing out, and never before has there been such an opportunity to buy a strictly high-grade piano at such ridiculously low figures. Not an instrument in stock represents anything but the highest quality, and these will go at less than the price paid for pianos of not half the value.

Don't compare this with the average selling-out plan, where prices are raised to accommodate reductions, for this is just what it says—an absolute closing out of the entire Young & McHugh business at prices that no one wishing an instrument of the highest merit can afford to miss. We have always endeavored to deal fairly with the public, and in this, our final transaction, we do not expect to depart from this plan of doing business. An inspection of the pianos on hand and a comparison of prices will prove to your entire satisfaction the extent and genuineness of the reduction.

Convenient terms will be made.

SHERWOOD WHISKY
Genuine Straight Sherwood \$1 Whisky—full quart.
Fine California Whisky
Port, Sherry, Angelica, and Muscatel, 35c quart, 3 qts., \$1.00.

EUGENE SCHWAB
625 8th St. S. E. Phone 2. 921.

Dress Gingham at 5³/₄ c yd. **Valentines** 1c to \$5
Regular price, 8c yard.
New spring Dress Gingham, in stripes, checks and broken plaids; in colors of light blue, gray, ox-blood and pink.
Splendid material for children's waists and school dresses.
One day at 5³/₄ c a yard instead of 8c.

IT PAYS TO DEAL AT GOLDENBERG'S.
Goldenberg's
SEVENTH AND K. "The Dependable Store."

May Manton Style Book
Of spring and summer fashions now ready. Come and see the new styles.
May Manton Patterns, 10c each.

A Big Purchase of Floor Oilcloth
Regular prices 35c, 40c and 45c Sq. Yd. **25c**
Is there a housekeeper in Washington who will fail to see the money-saving importance of this sale of heavy weight Floor Oilcloth at 25c square yard? We think not, and have planned for a record-breaking day's business on our fourth floor tomorrow.
These are heavyweight burlap oiled back Floor Oilcloths, with fine varnish surface. Choice of light and dark colors in all sorts of attractive designs.
They are subject to slight imperfections, such as a tiny blur in printing, but in most instances the faults are hardly noticeable.
In 4-4, 6-4 and 8-4 widths. Not remnants or short lengths, but full rolls from which you can buy as much as you like.
25c a square yard for regular 35c, 40c, and 45c qualities.

Steel Enameled Ware
Choice 10c Values Worth Up to 25c
The collection includes Gray Enameled Ware, Brilliant Blue Enameled Ware, and Blue and White Enameled Ware, representing the few of a kind pieces left from our recent big sales of this kitchen ware.
Here are some of the articles you can buy for 10c:
Milk and Pudding Pans, in 2, 3, 5 and 6-quart sizes.
Apple Bake Pans.
Lipped Saucepans.
Preserving Kettles.
3-pt. Drinking Cups.
Cuspidors.
Covered Buckets.
Wash Basins.
Choice of values worth up to 25c, at 10c each. (Basement.)

Purchase of "Mendel's Make"
Kimonos and Dressing Sacques
At 1/3 to 1/2 Less Than Usual Prices
We closed out the surplus stock of "Mendel's make" House Garments at an extremely low figure, and as a consequence we've some rare bargains in Kimonos and Dressing Sacques to offer the women of Washington tomorrow.
It is unnecessary for us to go into details regarding the many superior points of excellence in house garments bearing this well-known trade mark label. They are all made with painstaking care and attention to details, full cut, thoroughly well finished, and sanitary made.
We've divided our purchase into two lots, as follows:
Dressing Sacques and Kimonos, made of fine quality Fleece-down, "Frazzledown" and German Flannel, in an extensive variety of pretty designs and colorings. Trimmed with satin folds, made in high, square and V-shape neck styles. All sizes up to 46. Values worth up to \$5.00. Sale price..... **88c**
Long Kimonos and Lounging Robes, made of Fleece-down and Crepe, in handsome Japanese patterns, finished with satin borders. Some are tight fitting, others shirred. Sizes up to 44. Regular \$2.50 values for..... **\$1.98**

Wall Papers
Worth 10c, 25c, and 35c **5c**
a Roll (8 Yard Rolls)
Another big lot of high-grade Wall Papers on sale tomorrow at 5c a roll—representing quantities retailed at 10c, 25c, and 35c a roll.
The variety is immense, and includes side walls, ceilings, and borders to match, in all patterns, suitable for parlors, dining rooms, halls, bathrooms, libraries, or offices.
The collection includes many varnished gold papers, for which you must pay 35c a roll elsewhere.
Bring us the measurement of your room and height of ceiling—and we will tell you exactly how much paper will be required.
If you have a room or two that need papering, here's your chance to get the Wall Papers at trifling cost.

The New Monogram **50c**
Belt Pins at
Regular \$1.00 Value (Engraved free while you wait.)
The latest fad.
Heavily Silver-plated White Metal Belt Pins, in large oval shape, strongly made.
Any three-letter monogram engraved in the stylish ribbon lettering free of charge while you wait.
The engraving is done by an expert and is not to be confused with the inferior imitations of engraving shown elsewhere.
Regular price \$1.00. Complete for 50c tomorrow.

\$18.00 Empire Broadcloth \$4.95
Coats Reduced to
To quickly wind up the balance of our stock of these winter garments we have cut the price to a point that makes clearance an assured fact.
Made of excellent quality Chiffon Broadcloth, in the newest Empire Directoire model, trimmed with satin and satin molds and loops.
Choice of catwba, smoke gray, navy, hunters, brown, and black. Sizes for women and young misses from 14 to 18 years of age. These handsome garments which formerly sold at \$18 now reduced for quick clearance to \$4.95.

Regular 12 1/2 c yard-wide Percales at 9 3/4 c
A new lot of 36-inch Percales, in light grounds showing neat stripes, checks, dots, figures, and broken plaids.
Excellent quality for women's waists, men's shirts, and children's frocks. Heavy close-woven grade, free from dressing. Tomorrow at 9 3/4 c a yard instead of 12 1/2 c.
They are 11-quarter large size Blankets for double beds, in white, gray, or tan, with pink or blue borders. Soft fleecy finish—just the kind you want for extra bed coverings next month.
Tomorrow at 80c a pair instead of \$1.50.

Inauguration Supplies
5x50 Waxed Bleached Sheets; for single beds and cots; regularly 39c..... **29c**
10-4 size White Crochet Bed Spreads, in Marcellise patterns; regularly \$1.25..... **89c**
42x36 linen-finish Pillow Cases; with 3-in. hem; regularly 11c each..... **11c**
Yard wide Calico Bleached Cotton, heavy woven thread grade, sold regularly at 12 1/2 c yard..... **8c**

"STAR BRAND" OYSTERS
Right Off the Shell
"STAR BRAND" OYSTERS are received direct from their natural beds and opened fresh daily. Placing them in Sanitary Glass Jars with their own liquor (without adulteration) retains the same freshness and full flavor when received as though just lifted from the shell.
Serve "STAR BRAND" OYSTERS if you would enjoy savory stews, full flavored fried, surpassing steamed, and delicious raws. If your dealer refuses to serve you, phone or write us at once, and we will see that you are supplied.
Delivered in Glass Jars Only
STANDARDS, 35c Qt.; SELECTS, 50c Qt.
These Dealers Sell "STAR BRAND" OYSTERS at Regular Prices
Chas. Colvin & Co., 240 14th St. N. W.
Lewis Markey, 1419 P St. N. W.
Dupont Market, 1245 20th St. N. W.
J. C. Hill, 221 H St. N. W.
W. C. Bates Cafe, 1222 14th St. N. W.
Dealers are authorized to charge 5c extra for bottles, which amount will be redeemable upon their return. If dealers won't supply you, communicate with
NOMINI OYSTER COMPANY, 1250 St. S. W.